Homecoming Throwback Photos

PAGE 8

The Eastern Echo

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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

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Cellar Roots debuts new arts publication

Literary magazine open for submissions

Cellar Roots at the 2025 Student Media Gala in the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Thursday, March 27. *Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo*

Natalie Kyle
Managing Editor

Eastern Michigan University's student-operated fine arts and literary magazine, *Cellar Roots*, introduced *Roots*, a new arts and entertainment publication, in collaboration with *The Eastern Echo*.

Roots will be a monthly magazine and distributed as an insert inside the print edition of *The Eastern Echo*. Current readers of the Sept. 16, 2025, print issue can find the first copy of *Roots* within their paper.

Roots will expand upon *The Eastern Echo's* arts section by highlighting EMU and Ypsilanti arts news and events as well as local artists, musicians and more. Artists of the month and historical *Cellar Roots* volumes will be spotlited in each issue.

Madison Cantrell, editor-in-chief of *Cellar Roots* and arts editor at *The Eastern Echo*, hopes that *Roots* will "inform our readers about the vibrant arts community in their city."

Cantrell also expressed hope that *Roots* will further connect *Cellar Roots* and *The Echo* as the two teams collaborate on the publication.

What is Cellar Roots?

Cellar Roots aims to highlight student artists and provide a platform to publish their work. The team produces an annual fine arts magazine that features 2D, 3D and digital art submissions as well as photography, short stories, prose and poetry.

At the end of the academic year, the chosen submissions of *Cellar Roots* Volume 52 will be showcased on campus in the Intermedia Gallery Group's Student Center gallery.

The history of *Cellar Roots* dates back to 1971, when the first official volume was released. Warren Brown, editor-in-chief of *Cellar Roots*' first issue, had a specific goal in mind when naming the publication.

"Students with these varying backgrounds should have a magazine whose name has something in common with all," Brown said. "The 'Roots' symbolize the deep growth and natural expansion that is creativity. The 'Cellar' is the man-made thing that comes closest to the roots."

To learn more about the original 1971 *Cellar Roots* publication, read this week's issue of *Roots*. The latest edition of *Cellar Roots*, Volume 51, can be purchased on Amazon.com for $20.

Why join Cellar Roots?

When joining *Cellar Roots*, students can expect a hands-on, collaborative team experience.

Laurence Bourdeau, now an elementary school art teacher, worked on the *Cellar Roots* team as a graphic designer and design lead from 2023 to 2025.

"With regular classes, we didn't really do a lot of group work," Bourdeau said "so it was really important for clubs to be that space, to [say], 'All right, we're on our own; how do we make what we want to make happen, happen?'"

Ashley Schemer, now a graduate student at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, worked as a graphic designer on the *Cellar Roots* team for two years, starting in 2023.

"*Cellar Roots* helped prepare me for my career as a graphic designer by introducing me to collaborative teamwork and teaching me how to make design decisions that aligned with the publication's needs," Schemer said in an email. "I also gained hands-on experience working with other artists, learning from their expertise, and promoting their creative achievements."

How to get involved

Students can get involved with *Roots* and *Cellar Roots* in a number of ways. *The Eastern Echo* is hiring arts and entertainment writers for the *Roots*. *Cellar Roots* is looking for students to fill leadership, layout design and graphic illustrator positions. Those interested can email managing@easternecho.com and cellarroots@easternecho.com for more information.

Additionally, students and EMU alumni can submit their work for the upcoming edition of *Cellar Roots*, Volume 52. Submissions can be made through a Google Form until Dec. 13.

City of Ypsilanti distributes uniform trash bins for residents

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

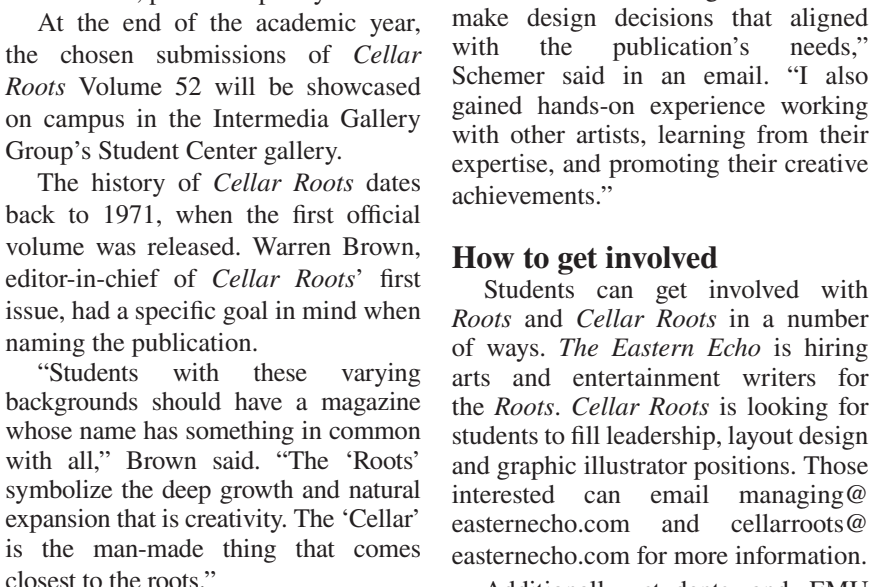
Distribution of new, uniform trash bins is now underway for residents in the City of Ypsilanti. The change comes as the city's garbage collection service, contracted by Stevens Disposal, moves to an automated side loader.

New bins for residents

Each household will receive a single, standardized covered 96-gallon bin, replacing previous rules that allowed households to use up to three resident-supplied 33-gallon bins, said Jeremiah Brown, communications assistant for the City of Ypsilanti.

The change only applies to City of Ypsilanti residents, not township residents, he added.

All city residents must begin using only the new 96-gallon bins only by Sept. 29, 2025. Trash placed in other bins or outside the bin will not be collected. Items placed on top of the bin will result in the entire bin and the item being skipped.



The new trash bins from Stevens Disposal are in use at many Ypsilanti residences in the Historic District. *Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo*

Switching to these larger single bins and the automated side loader keeps up with technology updates and standards across other municipalities, Brown said. The covered bins will also help address litter and vermin, he added.

The change will not affect recycling or yard waste pickup; however, residents currently receiving trash and recycling pickup on Fridays will receive pickup on Thursdays instead beginning Sept. 29, 2025, Brown said.

SEE TRASH BINS, PAGE 3

208
STUDENT COMMONS
THIS LOCATION IS NOW CLOSED
...TO HELP US BETTER SERVE THE WAY YOU EAT, CONNECT + LIVE.
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE WHAT ELSE WE'RE COOKING UP!
E|DINING

The former dining market on the second floor of the Pray-Harrold building sits empty Thursday, Sept. 11. Eastern Michigan University and its E|Dining program closed several campus markets *Christine Uthoff / The Eastern Echo*

EMU announces reopening of Pray-Harrold market as a grab-and-go food center

The Eastern Echo Staff

Eastern Michigan University officials announced in a series of emails that the E|Dining market in Pray-Harrold is scheduled to reopen this fall, although in a different format than before.

The emails also explained that the now-empty bookstore space in the Student Center will soon house a new shop where students and fans can purchase EMU-branded apparel, home goods and more.

Pray-Harrold Market

In an email sent to students Wednesday, Sept. 10, Walter Kraft, the university's vice president for communications, said the Pray-Harrold market would reopen later this fall as a grab-and-go center.

"We're committed to continually evaluating and improving your experience, and we'll keep making thoughtful adjustments to better serve your needs," university officials said in the email.

When students arrived on campus Aug. 25, the Pray-Harrold market and three others, including the one in the Student Center, were closed. This decision was shared with students in an Aug. 18 email, just a week before move-in. In that correspondence, university and E|Dining managers said the changes were made to reflect student needs.

The day after the closure announcement, students created an online petition through Change.org demanding that the markets reopen.

"They stated that this was what students wanted," student and petition-creator Jason Folk told *The Echo*. "Considering the increasing backlash and the number of signatures, they were wrong. They obviously did not think through the impacts of this in the community and on students."

The petition also demanded a town-hall style conversation with E|Dining, extended hours for the food services operations that remain open, and replacement of the restaurant-style options in the Student Center that were closed along with the markets. As of Friday, Sept. 12, the petition had 1,623 signatures.

Before students were informed, a Sept. 5 email sent to EMU employees from the university's communications division stated that "the changes focus on expanding services to high traffic areas and updating, modifying or eliminating venues with lower usage."

Language in the online petition claimed that the changes do the opposite.

"By removing frequently used locations on campus (The Markets) and replacing them with nothing, these changes do not benefit students. Instead, they rob students, faculty and staff of a convenient option between classes," the petition states. "Furthermore, by removing options in the Student Center, which were primarily underused due to limited hours (not a lack of student interest), this will concentrate students in one part of campus, leading to worse wait times and a continually unsatisfactory experience."

The email to employees also said that in the two weeks since the initial market closures were announced, "Chartwells and the University have reviewed those changes and are in the process of enhancing that original plan to assure access to food or drinks across campus."

SEE PRAY-HARROLD, PAGE 4

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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CORRECTIONS

The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor in chief by email: editor@easternecho.com.

Where to find the newest volume of *Cellar Roots*, EMU's Art Magazine:

CALENDAR

SEPT 09

Commuter Cookout

From 2 - 5 p.m.
Student Center — Patio

SEPT 10

Eagle Bundtini Giveaway

From 1 - 5 p.m.
Student Center — Lobby (First Floor)

SEPT 11

Field Day

From 7 - 9 p.m.
Rynearson Stadium

SEPT 12

TRIO SSS & McNair Welcome Back BBQ

From 2 - 5 p.m.
Best Hall — Front Lawn

SEPT 13

Glow In The Dark Hide & Seek

From 8 - 10 p.m.
Rec Im Building

SEPT 14

Football vs. Jacksonville State

From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Rynearson Stadium

SEPT 15

Homecoming Spirit Tables

From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Commons

From 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Eateries

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, September 9
High: 76 | Low: 51

Wednesday, September 10
High: 81 | Low: 53

Thursday, September 11
High: 80 | Low: 51

Friday, September 12
High: 78 | Low: 52

Saturday, September 13
High: 81 | Low: N/A

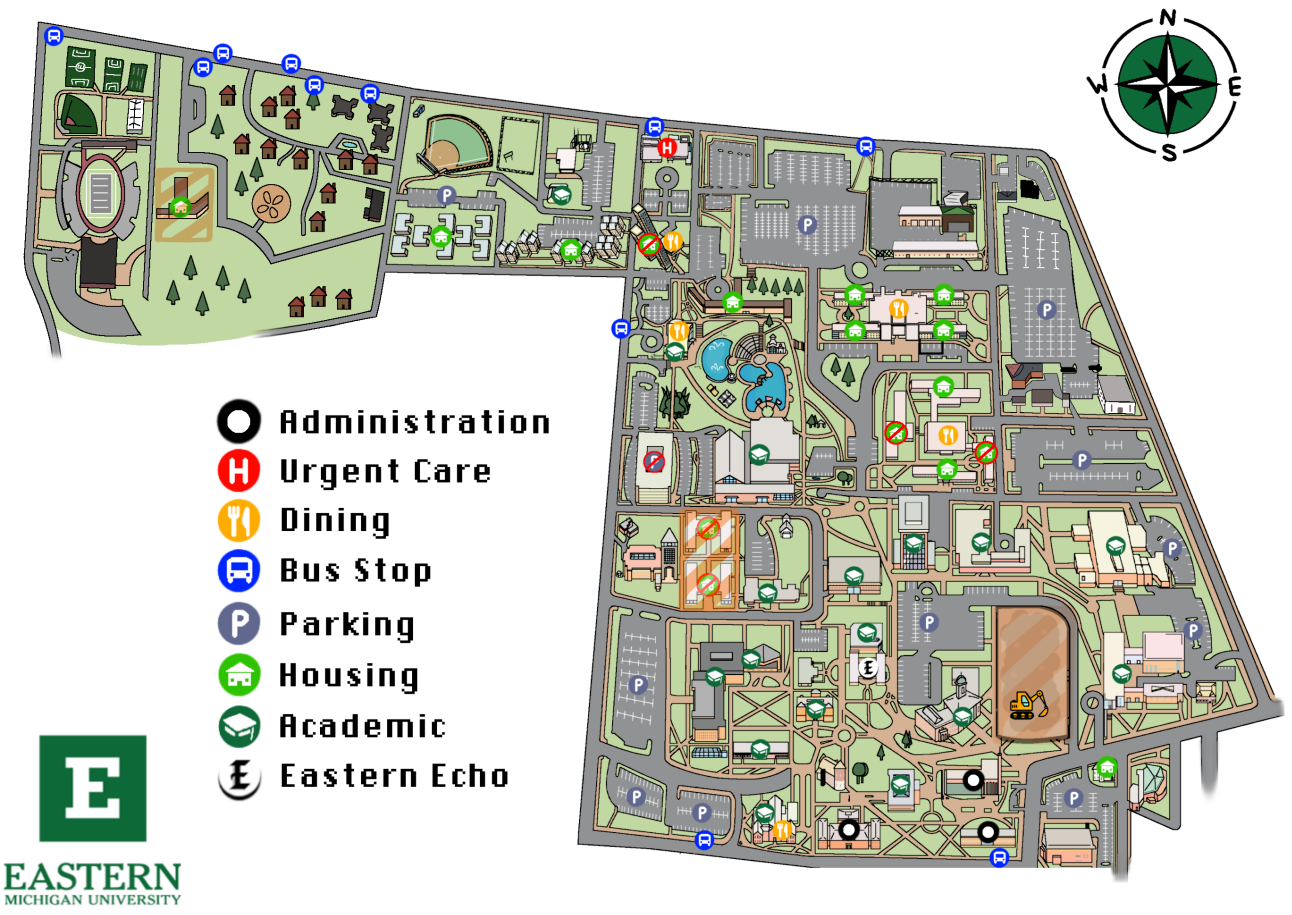
Source: The National Weather Service

Where to find *The Eastern Echo:*

Off Campus:
- Basil Babe on Cross Street
- Benito's Pizza in the Eastern Plaza on N. Huron River Drive
- Biggby Coffee on Washtenaw Avenue

On Campus:
- Alexander
- Boone

Where to find our links:



Swoop's Pantry marks 10 years of offering a helping hand

Natalie Kyle
Managing Editor

This year, Eastern Michigan University's Swoop's Pantry commemorated its 10-year anniversary with a celebratory campus event on Sept. 4, 2025.

The event began at 3 p.m. and took place under a tent raised over the lawn outside Swoop's Pantry, which is located in the John and Angie Sabo Room 100 in Pierce Hall. EMU students, faculty, and community members celebrated together with food and speeches from EMU President James Smith, pantry founding alum Haley Moraniec and both of the pantry's graduate assistants.

The event concluded with student-led tours of Swoop's. Inside the pantry, EMU community members have access to a myriad of shelf-stable and perishable groceries, including produce grown from the Swoop's Pantry garden. Personal care products, household items, pet food, toys and baby products are also stocked based on availability.

A free clothing section with gently used items is also available at the pantry. Visitors are welcome to take any items they need and are encouraged to donate clothes they no longer want in return.

Sisi Dawson, a senior at EMU in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program, is in her second year working as a team member at Swoop's Pantry.

"We have a full clothing section. This stuff is take as much as you need," Dawson said. "We have everything the Career Closet doesn't."

Sisi Dawson, a student worker at Swoop's Pantry smiles for a photo in the pantry's canned goods section. *Natalie Kyle/The Eastern Echo*

Swoop's Pantry is staffed by Eastern Michigan students who work as team members, team leads, coordinators, interns and graduate assistants.

Julie Harkema, Faculty Advisor and Recording Secretary of Swoop's Pantry, emphasized the importance of the organization's student leaders.

"They really come up with all the ideas here," said Harkema. "This really is a student-led pantry."

There are many ways to participate at Swoop's. Those interested are encouraged to donate to the pantry by leaving items in the donation box on the first floor of Pierce Hall. Students eligible for work study can consider applying to work at Swoop's. Additionally, Swoop's is always looking for volunteers.

"I hope that students are willing to come and experience some of that magic themselves, or be willing to participate if they are able to," Dawson said. "Just experience it for a day, and see if that's something you want to be."

EMU community members do not need to demonstrate financial need to visit Swoop's Pantry. Students, faculty, staff members and recent alumni only need to provide their EID number to participate.

Before visiting the pantry for the first time, students should be registered for the current or upcoming academic term and must complete an intake form.

Dawson wants the EMU community to know that Swoop's Pantry is always there for them in times of need.

"Swoop's Pantry to me means having a place of community where everyone's equal," Dawson said. "Somebody's always willing to lend a helping hand for anything, no matter what it is."

Swoop's Pantry receives resolution honoring their work signed by Michigan state lawmakers and the governor. *Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo*

An inside look at college dorm life

Rylee Curley
Design Chief

For many students, moving into a dorm is their first real taste of independence. Between figuring out how to live away from home and starting a new chapter, the little moments become part of a bigger picture.

In the spirit of the back-to-school season, here are three dorm anecdotes — two from Eastern Michigan University students, and one from myself that show how even small things can make a dorm feel like home.

AJ Grams, a fellow artist at The Eastern Echo, recalled a time regarding a dorm spider during their sophomore year. While recovering from a brief sickness, they received an unexpected knock at the door from a panicked neighbor in Walton Hall.

"She asked me to kill a spider," Grams said. "She just came to my door and was like, 'Hi, I don't know you, but can you come and kill a spider?'"

After AJ's partner stepped in to handle the eight-legged intruder, the incident became a running joke between friends for the rest of the year.

Savannah de Bock, a student in Lakeview Apartments, reminisced about a time when they were entering their room whilst distracted.

"I went up the stairs and walked to my room, too busy talking to notice the wrong number on the door," de Bock said. "So I push the door of what I expected to be my room, and see an iron on the floor. I do not have an iron on the floor."

After escaping the room, a repeat incident nearly occurred shortly after. de Bock was able to avoid the embarrassment by checking the room number in time, keeping spirits high with jokes and laughter.

During my first night of freshman dorm housing in Hoyt Hall, I was eager to see everything EMU had in store. After a late-night scheduling session, my suitemates came into the room, inviting me to a pancake breakfast the following morning. The smell of syrup and the sound of Guitar Hero drifting through the dorm room is still one of my core EMU memories.

"It's always a tradition to always play 'Free Bird,'" my suitemate claimed.

These stories don't make breaking news, but they form the everyday lives of university students everywhere. In the end, school is not just about grades or diplomas — it's the choices you get to make and the fun you have along the way.

The Eastern Echo
We're hiring!
Multiple positions available!
Get more info at:
easternecho.com/page/hiring

What's the Move?

Sep. 9 - Sep. 15

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

Music Drag Bingo at Tap Room for Ozone House - Sept. 10, 2025

Join local drag performers Jadein Black and Vivian Aphrodisia for a night of drag, music, and bingo, all while supporting a local charity. Proceeds from the event support Ypsilanti's Ozone House, which provides services to homeless and at-risk youth in Washtenaw County. The event takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 7-9 p.m., with doors at 6:15 p.m. Entry to this all-ages event is free, but tipping is encouraged.

Music Drag Bingo night will take place at Tap Room, located at 201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti.

For more information and to register, visit Eventbrite.com.

Show & Tell for Grownups - Sept. 11, 2025

If you ever find yourself missing the joy of "show and tell" day in elementary school, this event is for you. Held on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., attendees should bring a meaningful, unusual or otherwise treasured object that tells a story to share with the group. Bring on the nostalgia at this free event hosted by the Ypsilanti District Library. Registration is encouraged.

Show & Tell for Grownups will take place in the Program Room at the YDL Michigan Avenue branch, located at 229 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti.

For information and registration, visit the YDL website.

Boot Scootin' Line Dancing - Sept. 11, 2025

Ever wanted to learn how to line dance? Here is your chance. Hosted by the University of Michigan Musical Society, this introductory course teaches participants country dancing basics. Tickets for the class are pay-what-you-wish with rates starting at $5. Recommended attire includes cowboy boots or other comfortable closed-toe shoes. This event is all ages and does not require a partner or any prior experience.

The class will be held at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse at 100 Market Place. The class begins at 7:30 p.m., with doors at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 11.

For more information and tickets, visit the University Musical Society website.

VeganFest Ypsilanti - Sept. 14, 2025

Hosted by VegMichigan, this year's fall VegFest takes place on Sunday, Sept. 14 and will feature plant-based food from more than 20 vendors, including Cinnaholic, Earthen Jar, Ben & Jerry's and many more. Enjoy tasty vegan offerings and cooking demonstrations while learning from event speakers about veganism and animal welfare. Event entry is free.

The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Ypsilanti at 301 W. Michigan Ave.

For more information and event schedule, visit the VegMichigan website.

The Patriot Atlantic: The Dawn of the Age of Revolution - Sept. 15

Part of the EMU History Speaker Series, this lecture event takes place on Monday, Sept. 15 from 4-5:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, the lecture will focus on how Patriot movements in North America, Ireland and the Dutch Republic from 1747-1787 were interconnected and shaped future revolutionary events. This event is eligible for LBC credit.

The speaker event will be hosted in Halle Library 300, at 955 W. Circle Drive, Ypsilanti.

For more information, contact Walter Lorenz at florenz@emich.edu or 734-487-0914. Find the full EMU History Speaker Series lineup here.

Early EMU Homecoming week celebrates Michigan composers

Josh Cromwell
Staff Writer

Just weeks after the start of classes, Eastern Michigan University has leaned into an early homecoming, with signs and table tents declaring the theme "Paint It Green" across campus.

Held in October for at least the past seven years, this year's homecoming game is set to take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at Rynearson Stadium. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m., with the Eagles facing off against the University of Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns.

This year's homecoming halftime performance will be an "all-Michigan composer show" spotlighting Michigan's musical heritage, featuring EMU alumni Drew De Four and Colleen "Kin" Curran, a husband-and-wife team who have garnered international acclaim as a piano-rock duo.

De Four and Curran met as first-year students at Eastern. Since then, they have delivered more than 2,000 live performances across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Their interactive shows have entertained audiences on cruise ships in the Mediterranean and at music festivals in Dublin. They have also collaborated on albums with other musicians, including Brad Phillips (Patti LuPone and Jeff Daniels); Phredley Brown, the music director for American Idol; Bruno Mars; and Theo Katzman of the band Vulfpeck.

"Returning to EMU, the place where both our education and our relationship began, is such an honor," De Four said in the announcement of the show. "We are optimists and try to look at every idea, person, and situation with the most charitable, patient, and kind perspective. This is, in our experience, the healthiest and happiest way to live, and we hope our performance spreads a bit of this attitude to the crowd especially anyone who needs a lift."

Nick Smith, an associate professor at EMU who serves as associate director of bands and director of the EMU Marching Band, is excited that this duo will be joining the halftime show.

"It's special to have our own artists right down the road, who met on our campus, and because of their education went on to do great things," Smith said.

De Four and Curran are not the only halftime show attraction; the EMU Marching Band will also perform music from several Michigan-grown artists, including "Ole Time Rock & Roll" by Bob Seger and "Think/Respect" by Aretha Franklin, in addition to "Some Kind of Wonderful" by Grand Funk Railroad, "Let's Stay Together" by Al Green, and "Like a Prayer" by Madonna.

"I wanted to find a way to celebrate alumni while also creating a halftime experience that felt more like a Friday night out with your best friends, something that relates to everyone," Smith said in a university announcement on the show. "After talking with Drew and Kin, I learned they lived close and would deliver the exact experience that was in my mind."

Campus-wide homecoming activities begin Monday, Sept. 15, and spirit tables selling homecoming gear will appear even earlier.

From spirit tables to door decorating contests and a picnic, students, staff, faculty and fans have many opportunities to get into the homecoming spirit.

Anyone seeking to collect EMU homecoming gear can check out the spirit tables on campus. The table operating Sept. 9 will be in the Student Center lobby from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The same table will be operating again from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11.

Beginning Sep. 15, spirit tables will be open at The Commons from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with another in The Eateries from 5-6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, students can get free Eastern gear in the Student Center lobby between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. To receive a T-shirt, students can swap an used shirt from a different school or donate an item to Swoop's Pantry. While supplies last, participants will also have the chance to stuff their own eagle plushy.

University staff can participate in the homecoming fun through the campus Office Decorating Contest. Beginning Monday, Sept. 8, staff departments can decorate the entirety of their front office or just its main door. The decorating teams have until 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16 to put the finishing touches on their designs. Judging for the contest begins at 11 a.m., and the winning office will be announced at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, on EMU social channels and the EMU Today web pages.

Those looking to align their musical interests with their homecoming spirit can check out the Kickoff Picnic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 on the Student Center patio, the Sept. 17 Trap Karaoke event from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom, or the Step Show, which is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, in Pease Auditorium.

Many events scheduled for homecoming week also offer free food. Those with a sweet tooth might want to visit the Student Center lobby from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 17 for the Eagle Bundtini Giveaway. Those desiring a traditional game day experience can also participate in tailgating starting at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, on the front lawn of Rynearson Stadium.

The Michigan Renaissance Festival brings new features for 46th season

Matt Hodges
Staff Writer

Costumed fans celebrate a performance in Hollygrove Village. The Michigan Renaissance Festival, Hollygrove comes alive during August and September. *Courtesy of the Michigan Renaissance Festival.*

Hear ye, hear ye! By decree of his majesty's royal court, the village of Hollygrove declared its gates open to all who celebrate its annual festivities.

That's right; this year, the Michigan Renaissance Festival returned to Holly, Michigan, for its 46th season.

Since 1979, festival organizers and cast members have recreated a 16-century village called Hollygrove. Across the village's 312 acres, knights, peasants, witches and fairies alike gather in the fictional town bedecked in apparel reminiscent of the European renaissance, as well as various fantasy media inspired by the era. Visitors can indulge in a swath of medieval activities, from purchasing metal weaponry at the local blacksmith shop to donning fine 14th-century leatherwear and observing a jousting match between royal knights.

"A lot more people in the past couple of years have gotten into cosplay and stuff like that," Pendragon Costumes vendor Christopher Williams said during a recent festival weekend. "Liking nerdy stuff has become more mainstream, and a lot more people are willing to have fun."

The festival features more than 175 artisans, period entertainment, and interactive experiences.

Festival Marketing Manager Allison Johnson said in a written announcement on the 2025 event that festival attendance has grown 9% in three years, from 249,000 in 2022 to 269,000 in 2024, drawing visitors from five surrounding states and Canada.

The 2025 festival, which opened in August and will continue through the end of September, offers several new features. For example, at the new Wicked Wand Workshop, guests can customize their own magic wand. Another new feature is the Viking Invasion themed weekend, when guests are encouraged to dress as Scandanavian seafarers. A Ninja Warrior inspired obstacle course and petting zoo are also making their first appearances at the festival this year.

The standard features of Hollygrove include many long-running staples, such as the pub crawl, several royal jousts, and the hawk walk.

Organizers said the key theme for the festival is authenticity. Guests will find no shortage of handmade art and accessories from local vendors, ranging from the finely crafted metals from the shops Archangel Steel and Sabersmith to quality apparel from Authentic Wardrobe and Pendragon Costumes.

Other vendors include A Cup of Cloud Tapestry, which provides handmade crafts, and the Royal Glassblowers, who blow their glassware in front of a live audience.

Guests can witness one of three authentic jousting matches held each day at the festival. Jugglers, dancers, musicians and even horseback combat artists all perform live and up-close. Juggler Chuck Clark explained that sometimes, those performances can be a bit risky for the performers.

Clark, whose Hollygrove alias is Rufus the Dufus, performs a comedic juggling act at the festival.

"Two years ago, I cut my face doing a trick and was bleeding quite a bit," Clark said. "The worst injury I ever had... I burned my leg working on a fire trick and got second and third-degree burns. But it was totally worth it."

While the festival theme is predominantly Renaissance, there is no strict adherence to the time period, organizers said. Guests can expect to see a mix of authentic historical attire and more modern fantasy-based cosplay.

Carolyn Tantanella, an artist and the vendor for A Cup of Cloud Tapestry, said the blend of old and new is what makes the festival unique.

"The old timers will tell you a lot has changed in the past few years. They say, 'What's all this anime stuff?'" Tantanella said, explaining that it is fun to see newer characters among the knights and princesses.

Indeed, alongside the court jesters and kings and queens, guests are just as likely to see some Zeldas, Gokus and even the occasional Deadpool. The live bands have also been covering modern songs, such as Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall." Moreover, the royal jousters have been seen waving the flag of Super Earth from the video game Helldivers 2.

The Michigan Renaissance Festival will continue to run throughout the month of September with unique themes for each weekend.

Sept. 13-14 is Shamrocks and Shenanigans.

Sept. 20-21 is Harvest Huzzah.

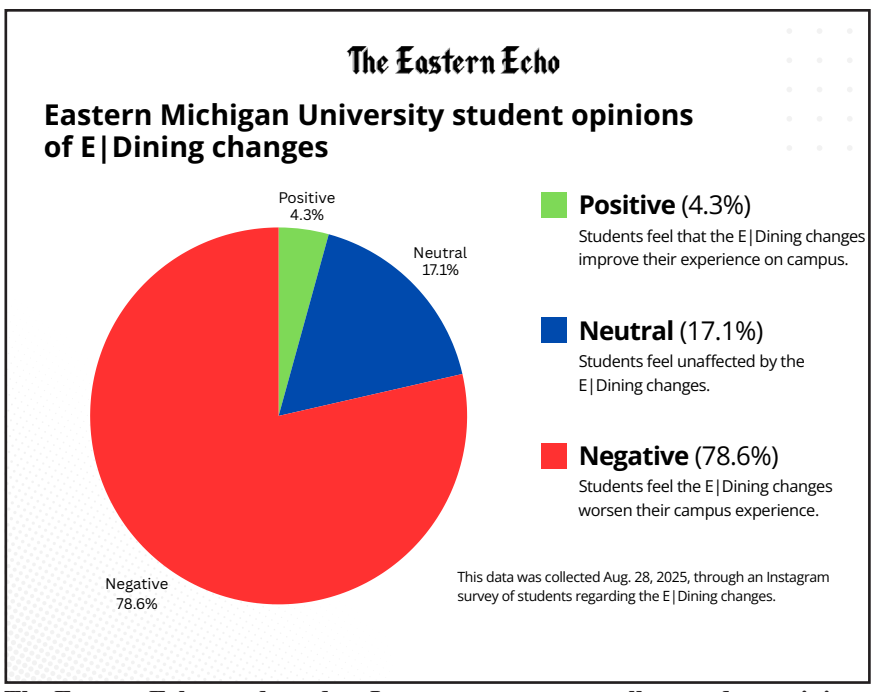
Sept. 26 is Festival Friday.

Sept. 27-28 wraps up the 2025 season with Sweet Endings.

A comprehensive list of event times can be found on the Michigan Renaissance Festival website.

Event tickets are available at the gate and online via the festival website. Admission is $27.95 for adults and $18.95 for children ages 5-12. Children age 4 and under attend for free. The festival also has a senior ticket price of $25.95.

The festival grounds are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parking at the venue is $15.


The Eastern Echo
Eastern Michigan University student opinions of E|Dining changes
Positive 4.3%
Neutral 17.1%
Negative 78.6%
Positive (4.3%)
Students feel that the E|Dining changes improve their experience on campus.
Neutral (17.1%)
Students feel unaffected by the E|Dining changes.
Negative (78.6%)
Students feel the E|Dining changes worsen their campus experience.
This data was collected Aug. 28, 2025, through an Instagram survey of students regarding the E|Dining changes.

The Eastern Echo conducted an Instagram survey to collect student opinions of the Aug. 2025 E|Dining changes. *Natalie Kyle/The Eastern Echo*

E|Dining

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perry questioned the value of the proposed Streetscape Selfie Wall E|Dining plans to debut in the Student Center later this fall.

"I think the selfie wall is just, I think, bizarre. This is what our money is going toward?" Perry said.

Student concerns have been raised over the unexpected timing of the announcement.

The initial Aug. 18 email was sent just one week before fall classes began, by which time many campus residents had finalized their meal plan decisions.

"Students bought meal plans months before these changes were announced. I want a refund!" commented Abby on the petition.

E|Dining Director of Marketing Greg Richards expressed empathy for the frustration he has heard from students.

"What I've seen a lot in terms of feedback is that we kind of 'bait-and-switched' people," Richards said. "I can assure people that was not anybody's intention."

Richards emphasized that quality of service and meal plan value are major priorities for E|Dining. While the quantity of food options is shrinking, Richards intends for the quality of what remains on campus to improve.

"If we close these other resources and funnel them to other locations on campus, what can we do for the guest experience?" Richards said.

Food Access

Students have also become increasingly concerned about hunger on campus.

Laniah Anderson, a junior studying business administration and management at EMU, spoke to her personal experience with hunger on campus when asked if she felt it was becoming more prevalent.

"Yes. 'Cause I be starving," Anderson said.

With the decrease in access to food on campus, many students have turned to alternative resources to meet their needs.

Julie Harkema, faculty advisor for Swoop's Food Pantry, said the pantry reported a record-breaking number of student visitors in one day on Aug. 25, 2025.

"We had 165 students come through on the first day of class, so we were pretty much wiped out," said Harkema.

Colton Ray, a graduate student studying social work and Graduate Assistant at Swoop's Panty, reported that the average number of daily shoppers during the 2024-25 academic year was 79. This year's first day of school was more than double last year's average.

In an effort to support Swoop's Pantry, E|Dining announced that 5% of all TrueBurger sales will go to the pantry. Donations will be doubled on "Feel Good" giveback days each semester, which have yet to be announced.

Looking Ahead

Folk promised to send an open letter to university administration when the student petition reached 1,000 signatures.

On Aug. 21, 2025, Folk sent an email to Richards, Provost Rhonda Longworth and Chief of Staff Leigh Greden, and Aug. 28, 2025, Folk sent an additional email to multiple university administrators, including Chief Financial Officer Michael Valdes, Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer Kristen Ayres, Financial Analysis Manager Matthew Williams and University President James Smith.

Folk said he has not received any response from administration.

EMU falls in major upset to LIU at home opener

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

13 years ago was the last time that an Eastern Michigan football team had lost to an FCS opponent.

This was the case until Saturday night, when the Long Island University Sharks came to town and spoiled the Eagles' home opener, defeating the green and white 28-23 in one of the most stunning upsets in college football this year.

The Sharks were 22.5 point underdogs heading into Ypsilanti off the heels of a 55-0 defeat to the University of Florida last week, and they played like a team with nothing to lose.

Dynamic playmaker Ethan Greenwood kicked the scoring off for the road team with a 65 yard touchdown run to put the Sharks up 7-0 early in the first quarter, and while the Eagles responded with a field goal, Greenwood added another rushing touchdown to his stats to put Long Island up 14-3 early in the second frame.

The redshirt junior would leave the game with an undisclosed injury shortly thereafter and did not return, but his impact had already been felt - posting 105 yards passing, 91 yards rushing, and his aforementioned two rushing touchdowns in his limited action.

Eastern Michigan's offense would respond with a touchdown of their own from Noah Kim to Dontae McMillan, making it a 14-10 game at the half, but subsequently struggled to find answers on offense until midway through the fourth quarter.

Luca Stanzani filled in for Greenwood on the Sharks' offense and played a key role in the road team's efforts to put the game away down the stretch.

A 14 yard rushing touchdown from the quarterback following an Eagles turnover on downs deep in their own territory put LIU up 21-10, and Stanzani's role in leading a statement 16 play, 75 yard, and nearly 10 minute touchdown drive that lasted over half of the fourth quarter was the final nail in the Eagles' coffin.

The redshirt junior punched in a two yard rushing touchdown to end that series and put the Sharks up 28-16 deep into the final frame; and while Eastern Michigan responded quickly with a touchdown of their own, they failed to recover the ensuing onside kick.

With their 28-23 win, LIU scores their first victory over an FBS opponent in program history to improve to 1-1 on the campaign, while the Eagles fall to 0-2 for the first time in over a decade.

Next week, things do not get any easier for Eastern Michigan. The team will be taking a road trip to Lexington, Kentucky to take on the SEC's Kentucky Wildcats on Saturday, Sept. 13. Viewers can catch all of the action live on ESPNU, with kickoff set for 7:30 p.m.

Eastern Michigan's loss to LIU was the team's first in a home opener over the last four years. *Julius Stewart/The Eastern Echo*

Eagles women's soccer soars on Senior Day

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Writer

Coming home from a 3-1 victory over the University of Southern Indiana on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, the Eastern Michigan University Eagles celebrated Labor Day weekend with a return to Scicluna Field and a 2-0 win over the Robert Morris University Colonials for a Senior Day victory on Sunday, Aug. 31.

Prior to the game, Eastern Michigan honored their six soccer seniors: Megan Heath (Medina, Ohio); Hannah Thompson (Schoolcraft, Mich); Secora Johnson (Galena, Ohio); Mary Grimes (Commerce Township, Mich.); Sophia Baumann (Romeo, Mich.); and Lily Spotak (Palatine, Ill.).

The game started quickly for the Eagles with an early set piece opportunity, but the team was denied the chance to open the scoring by Colonials' goalkeeper Emma Cameron. Nevertheless, Eastern's continued defensive press kept the Robert Morris offense attack off-balance as the Eagles dominated possession and seldom gave up control.

13 minutes into the game, junior transfer Aniyah Mack (Cincinnati, Ohio) opened up the scoring for the Eagles with a left-foot rocket that she propelled under the goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

Senior Secora Johnson and Canadian sophomore Maya Marolly (Montreal, Quebec) were credited with the assist as the Eagles found themselves up 1-0.

Eastern goalkeeper Ella Holland had a fairly inactive first half with only two saves needed, while her counterpart

Eastern Michigan Soccer freshman Kate Robinson with her team at Scicluna Field in Ypsilanti, Michigan *Photo courtesy of Eastern Athletics.*

Emma Cameron saved eight shots to keep Robert Morris within striking distance. The Eagles tallied nine shots on goal during the first 45 and went into the halftime break up 1-0.

A break in the action did not slow the Eagles down as just a minute into the second half, junior Olivia Sipsock (Medina, Ohio) sent a speedy ground ball to the corner pocket perfectly placed under the goalkeeper's outstretched legs, which doubled the Eagles lead.

Maya Marolly and junior Sarah Van Euwen (Avon Lake, Ohio) were credited with the assist, making that two on the day for Marolly.

The Eagles' pressure on defense continued to give the Colonials fits as they only put one more shot on target in the second period. Holland snuffed out three Colonials' corner kicks in the second half and quickly put the ball back in play while encouraging her team to keep up the continuous attacks on Robert Morris' goal.

The game ended 2-0 with the Eagles claiming the victory.

"Just really proud of the team effort, and I saw a level of tenacity that is one of the team's core values," said Eastern Michigan Head Coach Taylor Clarke. "We saw people running through 50/50s, putting in tackles, and joining the attack, which we haven't seen consistently, so it was nice to see some of the mentality and effort pieces catch up."

When asked about the impact the seniors on the team have had, Clarke said, "It's the relentless belief. They are a group of people who have bought into exactly what we've asked them to do, which is to believe that we can compete with anybody."

"And they wear that every day," he added. "They believe we can compete with the best. And it's been really cool to see them take that on."

The Eagles travel to Chicago next week to take on DePaul University on Sept. 7 for a 1:30 p.m. showdown and will return home on Thursday, Sept. 11, to take on Loyola University Chicago at Scicluna Field to celebrate Spirit and Mental Health Awareness day.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Sep. 9-15

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

With fall sports now firmly in full swing, here's a look at some of the top Eastern Michigan sports story lines to follow and how to catch them live:

Football | Eastern Michigan hits road to face Kentucky on ESPNU

For the first time this season, Eastern Michigan's football program will play on a cable broadcast network.

The Eagles will face SEC opponent Kentucky in their third of four non-conference games this year, kickoff set to take place on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Kroger Field in Lexington, Kentucky. Viewers can catch all the action on ESPNU.

Eastern Michigan have played the Wildcats twice since 2017, both times on the road, having lost both of their previous meetings.

Soccer | Women's soccer returns home vs. Loyola Chicago

Following a trip to Chicago to face DePaul, the Eagles return home to face another Illinois school - this one being Loyola University Chicago. The match will serve as Spirit Day and Mental Health Awareness Day for fans in attendance.

Eastern Michigan have played the Ramblers four times in the past decade, having won once, lost twice and drawn once during that span.

Viewers can attend the match for free with the opening kick set for Sept. 11 at 4:30 p.m., or can stream live on ESPN+.

Volleyball | Women's volleyball travels to Rochester to face Xavier, Southern Illinois, Oakland University

The women's volleyball campaign is in full swing, and it stays in state for the Eagles with the upcoming Sept. 12-13 Golden Grizzlies tournament in Rochester, Michigan.

Back to back matches for the program against Xavier and Southern Illinois will be featured on Friday, Sept. 12 at noon and 5 p.m. respectively, while the green and white will face the home team Oakland University on Saturday, Sept 13 at 3 p.m.

Women's volleyball 2025 season preview

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

Two years ago, the Eastern Michigan University women's volleyball program was firmly in rebuild mode.

Head Coach Kevin Foeman was hired in March of 2023, and a season of transition followed, with the team posting a 5-25 record in the fall of that year in a campaign to forget.

Forget they did; in 2024, the Eagles posted an eight-win improvement year-over-year in one of the largest single season turnarounds in program history.

Heading into this season, Foeman wants even more from his group and has high hopes for a spot in the Mid-American Conference tournament.

"I need another eight-win improvement," he said in regards to what his expectations were for the Eagles in 2025. "We need to realistically be healthy and happy and have a chance in November to fight for a MAC playoff berth."

Leading the squad into the new year will be sophomore middle blocker Hatteras Welker, who has been an instant sensation since stepping on campus last year.

Welker, named to this year's preseason All-MAC squad and to the 2024 MAC All-Freshman team, set a school record for most blocks by a freshman last season along with leading the conference in that statistic to boot.

"I think she's going to continue along her progression," Foeman said in regards to his squad's most high profile player. "I think she'll progress, and she'll progress both offensively and defensively, to where we'll see a little bit of a jump in the number of kills she gets."

The MAC preseason coach's poll has Eastern Michigan projected to finish eighth in the conference this year. However, Foeman is not deterred by the media's low expectations of his camp.

"At the end of the day, we know what we have to do," he said. "We know exactly where we expect to finish. So we create enough motivation within our walls that we don't necessarily need that whole support material to get us going."

Dzanc House Gallery's South Side Stroll

The Historic Ypsilanti South Side Stroll was held on Aug. 16, 2025 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The event was organized by the Dzanc House and the Historic Southside Neighborhood Association. It featured local artists displaying and selling their works at several locations which attendees walked around to enjoy art, music, community and the beautiful day.

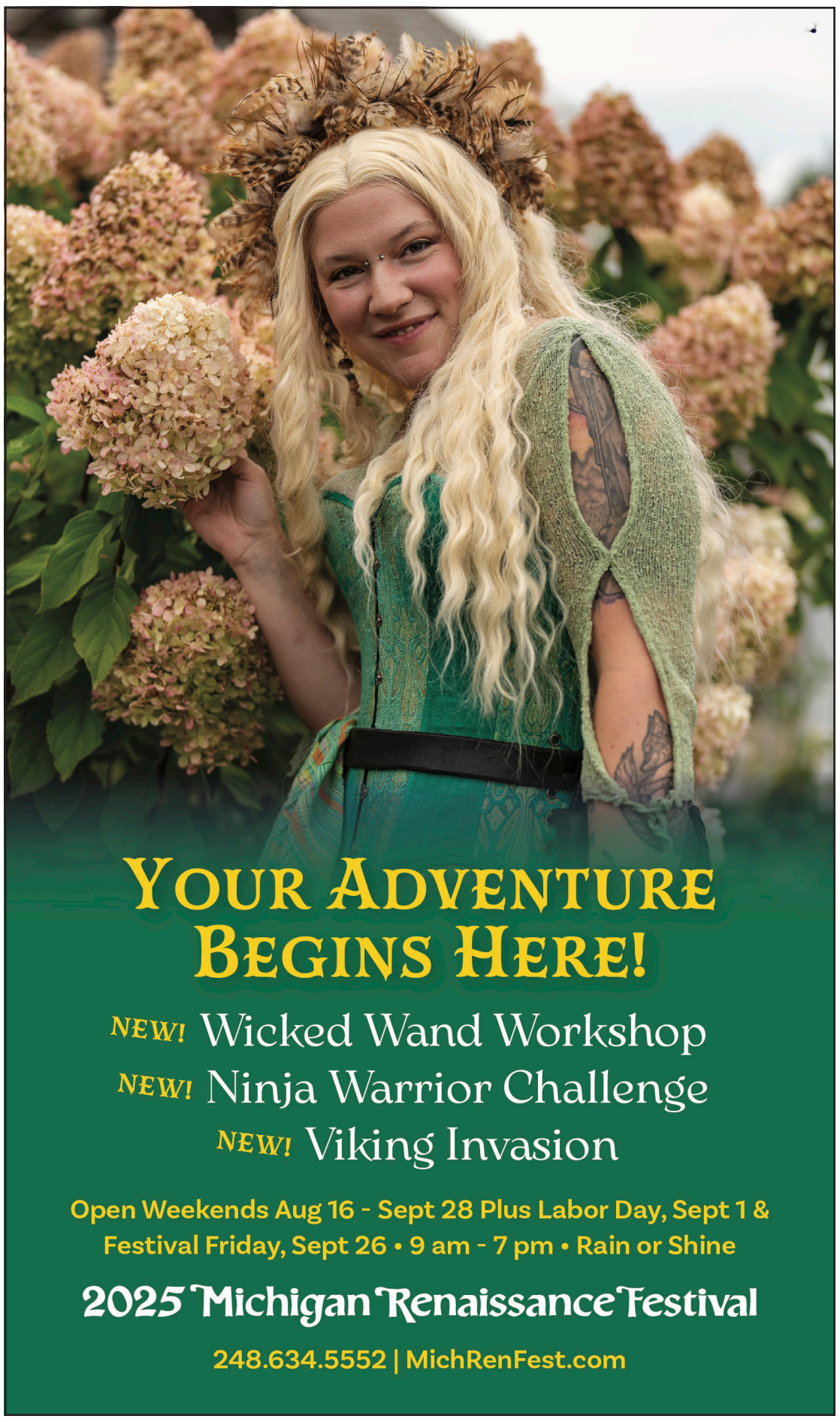
Photo Gallery by Lee Hammock

Pictured: Jo Tek

Pictured: Iman Hathaway

Pictured: Boomkat

Pictured: Madison Cantrell (Left) and Ameera Salman (Right)


YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!
NEW! Wicked Wand Workshop
NEW! Ninja Warrior Challenge
NEW! Viking Invasion
Open Weekends Aug 16 - Sept 28 Plus Labor Day, Sept 1 &
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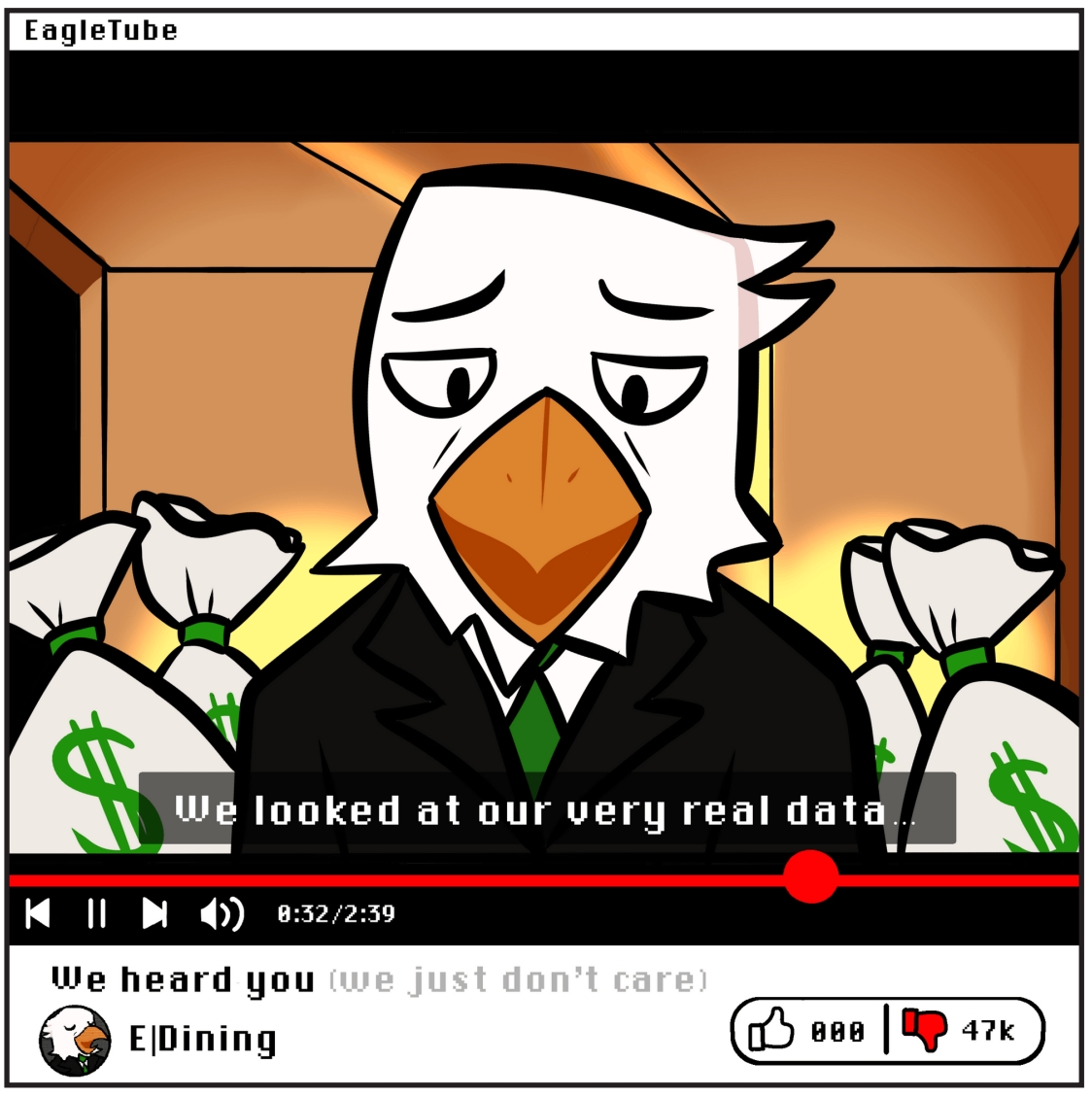
2025 Michigan Renaissance Festival
248.634.5552 | MichRenFest.com

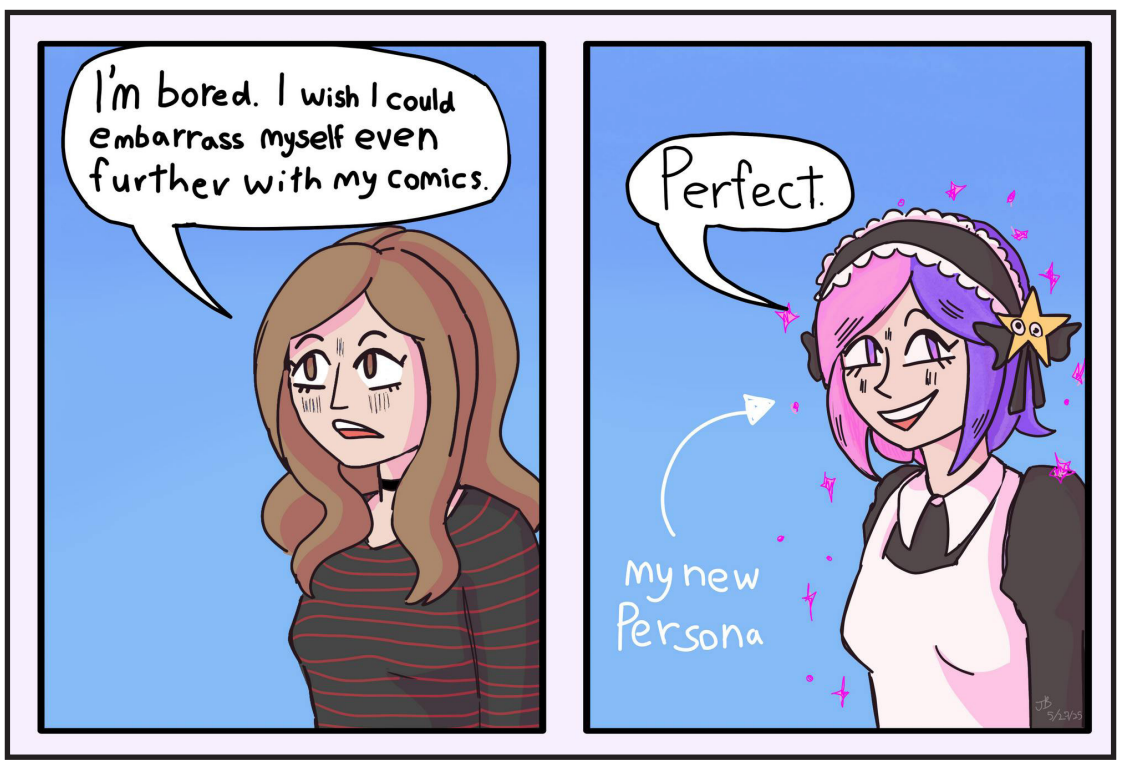
Pictured: Gilded Lotus

View the full gallery on our website!

Real Data | *Rylee Curley, Design Chief*

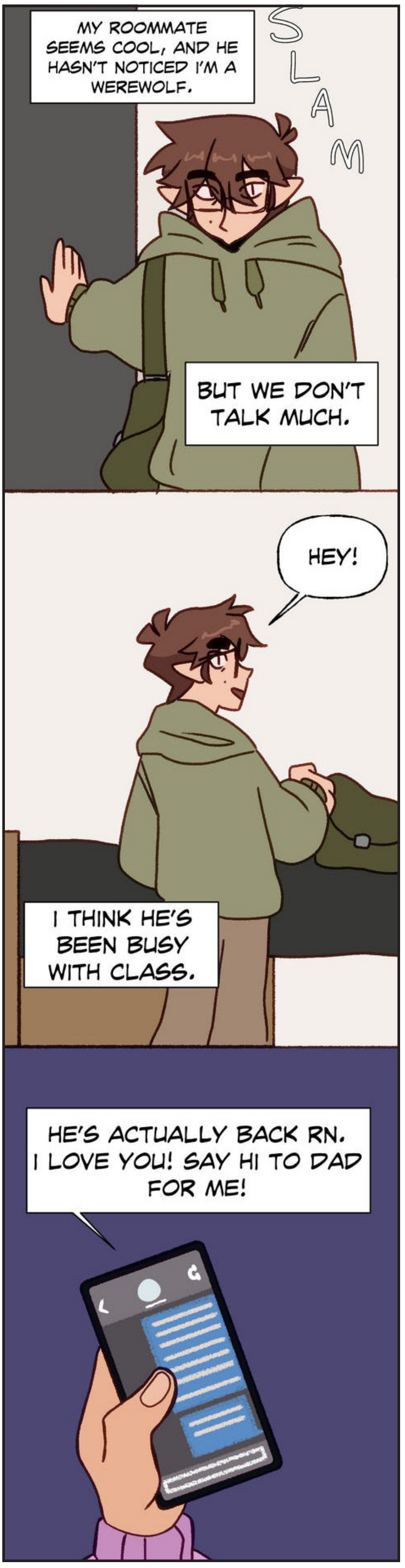


This is Me Now | *Julia Bartlett, Comic Artist*



Feathered Facts | *Rylee Curley, Design Chief*

Moonlight 10-2 | *Funkyl0af, Comics Artist*


MY ROOMMATE SEEMS COOL, AND HE HASN'T NOTICED I'M A WEREWOLF.
SLAM
BUT WE DON'T TALK MUCH.
HEY!
I THINK HE'S BEEN BUSY WITH CLASS.
HE'S ACTUALLY BACK RN. I LOVE YOU! SAY HI TO DAD FOR ME!

Scoop says...

Scan to find our links!

BBQueer drag queens stun at welcome party

The EMU LGBT Resource Center hosted BBQueer on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025. This year's festivities included performances from iconic local drag queens like returning host Jadein Black, Maxi Chanel, winner of Miss Gay Detroit 2025: Sabin and more. The usual drag bingo and free food also drew in the crowd of students to the Student Center patio.

Photo Gallery by Max Taylor